

Light of the World



Your savior is
born today
in David's city.
He is Christ the
Lord.

Luke 2:11

Christmas Eve December 24, 2025

Rejoice! We make room

PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2025

Rejoice! We Make Room!
11:00 pm

WELCOME!

We welcome you to worship today. Park Ridge Community Church affirms that all people are made in the image of God and are worthy of God's love and grace. We commit to the ongoing work of being a church journeying together to deepen our understanding of the nature of God's love and to fulfill our responsibility to embody the Christ Spirit in the world. No matter who you are or where you are on this journey, you are welcome and loved.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Allegro Moderato from Christmas Suite for Strings

A. Rowley

*CALL TO WORSHIP

There is room for you here. If you're weary and worn, or hopeful and patient.

If you're tired and lost, or wrapped up in hope.

If you're new to this place, or have been here before.

Come in, come in. There is room for you here.

The angels are singing, **"Be not afraid."**

The angels are singing, **"Good news and great joy!"**

So come in, come in! Come, all ye faithful!

There is room for us here. There is room for Christ here.

*HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

41/42

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold Him, born the King of angels.

O come let us adore Him. O come let us adore Him.

O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choir of angels, sing in exultation!

Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest.

O come let us adore Him. O come let us adore Him.

O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Jim Davis and Scott Perlman

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving Christ, Scripture tells us that you were placed in a manger among livestock and hay because there was no room at the inn.

The space was full, and yet— your parents made room.

Scripture tells us that shepherds arrived from the fields beyond town.

The space was full, and yet— they made room.

Scripture tells us that Mary pondered what the shepherds had to say.

Her heart was full, and yet— she made room.

Too often we assume there is no more room.

Too often we choose exclusion and close off our hearts. Teach us how to make room for one another. Teach us how to make room for you. Carve out space in our hearts to love as you love, for we do not want to build hostility here. We want to build your promised day. Guide us forward. With hope and honesty we pray. *Silent Prayers are Offered.*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

...Unto us a child is born. **Unto us a child is born.**

Unto us grace is given. **Unto us grace is given.**

May this good news change the very fabric of our lives.

Christ has made room for all of us. Amen.

CHRISTMAS RESPONSE

Star Child

S. Murray and C. Young

***Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign,
Down-to-earth Child, Star of Stars that shine,
This year, this year, let the day arrive when
Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!***

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Star Carol

John Rutter

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

*CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

***Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"***

***Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"***

*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*PREACHING LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Open the Door

Rev. Carol Hill

A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who makes room for us— who opens the door, pulls up a seat, puts the kettle on, and says, "Tell me everything." We believe that God not only treats us this way but also makes room for our neighbors, for strangers, and for our enemies. Jesus modeled this kind of room-making love when he said, "Let the children come to me," and, "Let me wash your feet," so we try to follow suit. In a world of closed doors, we believe in saying, "There is room for you here."

OFFERTORY

O Holy Night

A. Adams

*RESPONSE

What Child is This?

***So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!***

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, we have been waiting a long time for this night - for the joy and quiet of Christmas Eve, for the sound of the angel chorus, for the old familiar songs. On this holy night, we say thank you for the things in our lives that spark joy! However, God, even in the face of remarkable joy, we still bring weary and worried hearts to you this night. In between our joy and our weariness, God, we ask that you would make room.

Pour yourself into the cracks of our hearts. Bind yourself to our good days and our bad days. Carve out space for your love in the center of our beings so that no matter where we go we might trust the angels' song when they say, "Be not afraid," and, "Joy to the world!" Amen.

***SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST'S LOVE** *As the light is passed from the candles at the aisle, please tilt the unlit candle towards the wick of the lit candle.*

***CANDLELIGHT CAROLS**

Away in a Manger (vs. 1 & 2)

***Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.***

***Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
close by forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.***

O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 1 & 2)

***O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.***

***O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!***

Silent Night (vs. 1-3)

***Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin, mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in Heavenly peace! Sleep in Heavenly peace.***

***Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from Heaven afar. Heavenly hosts sing: Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!***

***Silent night, Holy night, Son of God loves pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.***

***BENEDICTION**

Hear the good news and rejoice: A Savior has been born to you.
Christ is born! Glory to God in the highest heaven! Merry Christmas!

***CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION**

Joy to the World (vs. 1 & 2)

***Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room and Heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.***

***Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.***

***POSTLUDE**

Allegro from Christmas Concerto

A. Corelli

Leading Us in Worship:

Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister
Pastor Mollie Foster, Associate Minister
Sara Born, Lector
Jim Davis and Scott Perlman, Advent Wreath Lighters

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries
Sue Douglass, Organist
Jane Kenas-Heller, Accompanist
Chancel Choir
Karen Nelson, Violin
Dave Belden, Violin
Naomi Hildner, Viola
Melissa Bach, Cello
Mark Holihan, Guitar

CREDITS: Today's prayers and liturgy is written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

ITEMS OF NOTE

In the event of an emergency, please follow the direction of the ushers.

WELCOME GUESTS! We are glad you are joining us in worship tonight. Please fill out a postcard found in the pew baskets or in the narthex to share your information with us! Please email office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org if you have any questions.

PLEASE SEE AN USHER...for seat cushions and/or hearing assistance devices for use during worship. *Thank you to our Christmas ushers:* Anita Rifkind, Adrian Hill, Fred Siebert, and Scott Nelson.

RESTROOMS are located on the lower level at each end of the church. All-gender/family restrooms are located at the bottom of the stairs at the back of the sanctuary.

ONLINE DONATIONS can be made via Zelle (email is giving@parkridgecommunitychurch.org), or via our online giving platform! You can text "GIVE" to (847)-908-9088 or scan the QR code to make a donation!

SCAN TO GIVE
TO PRCC!



NURSERY (0-5 years old) The nursery is available for children up to age 5 from 11:00 pm-12:00 am. Our nursery is located right next to Jordan Hall in the basement. Merry Christmas

Join us for worship on Sunday December 28th & January 4, both days with one worship service at 10 am in the Sanctuary.

The church office will be closed from December 24th thru January 1st.

ADULT MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY - 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm in Ellinger Transept

Wednesday Night Bible Study will resume on January 7th with a new study "The Bible and the Transgender Experience. Books are \$10 from the Church Office.

MEN'S BREAKFAST - Thursdays at 9:00 am

Calling Men of all ages! Join us for coffee and pastries at 9 AM every Thursday in the Church Library. We chat about the latest news, check in with each other about life, and enjoy the absence of an agenda! All are welcome! Join us on Zoom!

FAITHFUL FIRST SUNDAYS, Sunday, January 4 at 9:30 am

Is the idea of praying in front of others daunting? Do you ever feel like you just don't know what to say? Join the Stephen Ministers for Faithful First Sundays, a monthly gathering to explore different approaches to prayer. We meet on the first Sunday of each month from 9:30-9:50 am in the Ellinger Transept (off the sanctuary, opposite the chapel). January - Topic: "Meditation- Finding the Quiet Place."

OUTREACH

WINTER COLLECTION Let's help our new neighbors stay warm this winter! All are invited to join in by providing mens boots, warm socks, hats, gloves, and scarves for the Night Ministry. Donations can be dropped off in the Butler Place collection bin through December!

SUNDAY NIGHT SUPPER - January 4th

We are enlisting help for volunteers to prepare and cook a healthy meal for 75 people in the PRCC Kitchen and serve it at Park Ridge United Methodist Church. **We need 4 cooks and 12 servers** for our next assigned date on January 4, 2026. Sign up with the QR Code!



Expanding our Welcome: A Mental Wellness Perspective January 25, 2026, 3:00-5:00 pm

Join in the conversation as we welcome Rev. Gilbert Martinez from Christ Church UCC in Des Plaines. Rev. Martinez will share the impact and importance of welcoming those living with mental health challenges, supporting all who are affected by mental health conditions, and engaging in ways to live out a congregational commitment to mental wellness.



“Courage and Connection Art Gallery: Stories of Refugee Neighbors” Saturday, January 31, 7-8 pm, Jordan Hall

All are welcome to come and hear stories, see powerful portraits, experience the resilience of refugee neighbors as they have made their homes in the United States. Over coffee and dessert, we will learn about how refugees connect with the volunteers who walk beside them and what opportunities exist for involvement! A free-will collection will be received to benefit Exodus World Service.

PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER



CARNIVAL

FEBRUARY 28, 2026

A NIGHT OF CASINO GAMES, DINNER, COCKTAILS,
LIVE MUSIC, AND AMAZING AUCTION ITEMS--
CARNIVAL STYLE!

\$100 PER TICKET
\$750 A TABLE OF EIGHT
\$50 AFTER DINNER TICKET

5:00 PM: COCKTAILS
6:00 PM: DINNER & LIVE AUCTION
7:30 PM: DESSERT, CASINO GAMES,
& LIVE MUSIC



**This event is for ages 21+*



Christmas Flowers

Given in honor of:

Our Congregation by Mary Biardo
Flowers for Christmas by Patrica Conaway
The birth of Jesus by Marc and Kathy Erlandson
Our Family by Scott and Susie Hollingsworth
PRCC Staff by Janet Johnson
Elsie Jarvis by Eugene Jarvis and Family
Vince and Marva McCarty by the McCarty Family
Barbara Scharringhausen for her many years of service to PRCC by Bill Scharringhausen
Flowers for Christmas by Laura Sissman
Loved Ones by Andrea and Will Smith
The Wonderful PRCC Staff by Liz Swanson
Anne and Emily Zoellner's holiday birthdays by Luan Zoellner

Given in memory of:

David Douglass by Susan Douglass
Of our loved ones by Marc and Kathy Erlandson
Alicen McGowan and Irene McGowan by Sasha Gerritson
Roy Shepard by Jason and Megan Hinton
Clarissa Boyd by Laura Lapp
Richard Lenke by Maureen Lenke
Dennis Ofenloch by Leslie Ofenloch
Maxine and Tio DiDomenico by Anita Rifkind
Hans and Corry Regnier by Megan and Michele Thomas-Regnier

**From the Ministers, Board of Directors, Staff, and Congregation
of Park Ridge Community Church:**

Merry Christmas!

*May this be a time of hope, peace, joy, and love for one
and all!*